

HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

LEARN HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HOME

The City of Bloomington will host its 10th Home Improvement Fair, **Saturday, February 25, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

If you're considering making home improvements, you should attend this free event. Fairgoers will see a variety of home improvement exhibits, have questions answered by home improvement professionals and get ideas for remodeling projects.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be 16 free how-to seminars covering a

variety of topics, a kids' workshop and presentations by "The Organizing Guy" Bill Bliesath.

In 2010, 1,800 people visited the Home Improvement Fair and this year is expected to attract even more.

To receive the latest Home Improvement Fair news, scan the QR code *at right* or visit the City's website and click on [E-Subscribe](#) to sign up for e-mail updates. For more information, visit our website, call the Housing and Redevelopment Authority



Program at 952-563-8937 or e-mail hra@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
HOME FAIR.



HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR APPOINTED

KAY McALONEY BEGINS

The City recently appointed a new Human Resources Director to replace Kent Michaelson, who retired last fall. Kay McAloney, who began at the City in January, comes to Bloomington from Washington County, where she served as human resources director since 2003.



McAloney has previous experience as human resources director for the cities of Brooklyn Park, Anoka and Ramsey. Additionally, she worked as personnel advisor for the League of Minnesota Cities. She has more than 20 years of experience in employee and labor relations, recruitment and retention, employee development and benefits, performance management and policy administration. She holds a master's degree in human resources and industrial relations from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. McAloney is a member of several associations. She currently serves as a board member of the International Public Management Association, where she served previously as president.

"I look forward to having the opportunity to work with everyone at the City, McAloney said. "I've learned that Kent Michaelson left some big shoes to fill, but thankfully he left us with a great, experienced staff."

SAFETY REMINDER

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR



Many people rely on sidewalks to get where they need to go. Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and other objects such as recycling bins ensures safe travel for everyone.

The City asks that all residents and business owners help in keeping public sidewalks free of fresh snow, as well as any snow that may be deposited as a result of snow removal from streets and driveways. In addition, it is illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

PRODUCE YOUR OWN TV SHOW

Are you interested in video production? Why not produce your own TV show on Bloomington Public Access Television (BCAT)?

Annual memberships are \$45 for individuals, \$15 for students and \$125 for organizations. For more information, visit www.bcat16.org or call Production Specialist Gina Simmons at 952-563-4980.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BCAT.

LEARNING THE RULES OF THE ROAD

HOW TO NAVIGATE BLOOMINGTON'S THREE-LANE STREETS

As part of ongoing efforts to manage traffic speeds, accommodate anticipated increases in traffic volume and balance vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle needs, the City has converted some four-lane streets to two and three lanes. While most drivers have easily adapted to navigating three-lane streets, they may be confusing for those who have not driven on them.

In a three-lane street configuration such as 86th Street, the center lane is used only for turning, not for passing. It is illegal for a driver to cross the solid yellow line in the middle to pass a vehicle or to go around a vehicle making a right turn. However, if a vehicle such as a transit bus or garbage truck is pulled over on the shoulder and there is adequate space in the two-way left turn

lane to safely proceed around them, you may do so cautiously. This does not apply to school buses. Drivers must always stop for school buses when the stop sign arm is extended.

The center lane is always shared, for the purpose of making left turns, by traffic traveling in both directions. To turn left from the center lane, make sure the lane is clear, signal, look over your shoulder, and move completely inside the center left turn lane. Wait in the turn lane until the opposing lane is clear and then turn only when it is safe; be aware that other vehicles may also be using the left turn lane.

In addition, as indicated by the "No Parking" signs, there is generally no parking allowed on three-lane streets. For more information, call Civil Engineer Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2012 PROPERTY TAX LEVY

In an effort to maintain an affordable price for City services, the City Council adopted a property tax levy for 2011 of \$44,444,371, a decrease of 0.25 percent from 2010. Other communities in Hennepin County either had no increase or up to an 8 percent increase in their levies.

Based on this tax levy, the City's portion of 2012 total residential property taxes is approximately 29 percent.

The City's objective is to maintain the monthly cost of City services at the same level as in 2010 and 2011 – \$67.82 – for the owner of a median-valued home, which for 2011 was \$207,300.

Some homeowners saw the value of their properties decrease and their portions of local taxes increase. This is because there is not a direct correlation between property values and property taxes as there is between sales and

income taxes. Governments in Minnesota levy a total property tax dollar amount; they do not set the tax rate, as found in some states. In the property tax system, market value is used to create a proportionate share of the tax levy. In other words, a person's tax bill is a factor of how all other properties in the city change in value. The average median-valued property decreased 2.6 percent in value for taxes payable in 2012. The City tax for a median-valued home with the approved levy should stay flat compared to the 2011 tax. If your property maintained its value better than the median-valued home, your share of the tax levy most likely showed an increase.

Home sales in 2010 continued to reflect the housing downturn and are the basis for the 2011 assessment for taxes payable in 2012. Home sales in 2011 will be the basis for 2013 taxes. Total market value for all Bloomington properties was at \$11.2 billion for taxes payable in 2010, dropped to \$10.3 billion for 2011 and to \$10.1 billion for 2012.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

